



The little boy who made the world 'wake up'



**Emily
Jackson**
Metro | Vancouver

Alan Kurdi, 2012-2015

Three-year-old Alan Kurdi was excited to go on a boat ride.

The toddler, who was always giggling, was especially delighted when a mist of water sprayed his face on the boat that promised to smuggle about a dozen Syrian refugees living in Turkey, including his family, to Greece, which was to be the next stop for the Kurdis in their futile attempt to seek refuge with family in Canada.

"Alan was laughing his head off and he said, 'Oh, that's cold,'" his aunt Tima Kurdi recounted from a conversation with the youngster's father, her brother Abdullah. She lives in Coquitlam, B.C.

The next morning, the world woke up to a photo of Alan's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach. A wave hit the boat, causing it to flip over in a disaster that killed at least 12 people, including Alan's five-year-old brother Ghalib and his 26-year-old mother Rehan. His father Abdullah survived.

Splashed on front pages and screens around the world, the image of the young boy prompted cries for more action on the crisis. Canadian leaders interrupted their campaigns to address the tragedy and Alan's connection to Canada.

Alan and his brother were born in Kobani, a Syrian town on the Turkish border, their aunt Tima told reporters at her suburban home, where she was hoping her family would live if they were granted refugee status.

Tima, a hairdresser, has been in Canada since 1992. Her family owns land in Kobani, where they grow olive trees and relatives gather every summer. It was there that Abdullah, a barber, first met Rehan,



Alan Kurdi THE CANADIAN PRESS

a seamstress, when he was helping tend the trees. The pair were married and lived in Damascus before moving back to Kobani when Rehan was expecting their first son, Ghalib.

It's not clear exactly when the family fled to Turkey, but in a letter to Chris Alexander, Canada's citizenship and immigration minister, Tima hints at a treacherous journey where her family encountered rebels. She called their situation desperate and wrote it was impossible for them to return to Syria to get the documents Canada requires to accept refugees.

In the meantime, they lived with another Syrian family in Turkey, with Tima sending money to pay the bills. Abdullah did "everything in his power" to make enough money to feed his family, doing his best to get into construction work.

Tima last saw her nephews on a trip to Turkey in 2014. Alan was a happy baby, always giggling in the background when Tima spoke to her relatives on the phone. His favourite food was bananas, and the week before they left on the boat, he asked his aunt to buy him a bicycle. He was curious to know if there were lots of toys in Greece.

Tima said the family wants the world to take action.

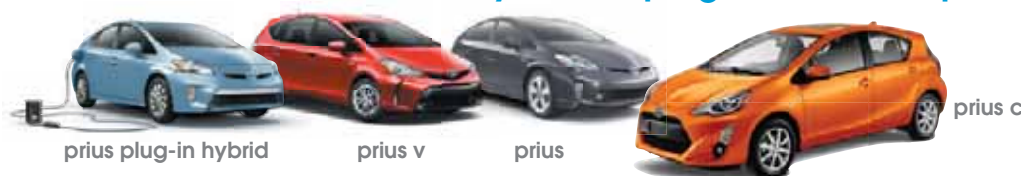
"That's what Abdullah said to me: 'It's OK, it has to be my kids and my wife to wake up the world. It's OK. So maybe the others will be safe ... it's written to happen.'" WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Syrian refugee crisis

7 pages of coverage inside

- Mayor says Ottawa ready to help refugees, pg. 3
- Harper says policy change isn't enough, pg. 14
- Questions and answers about the Syrian situation, pg. 17

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Political fallout unknown



Immigration Minister Chris Alexander talks to reporters after a television interview in Ottawa on Thursday, in the wake of images of a Syrian child found drowned on the shores of Turkey. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Too early to tell if photo will be election game-changer



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The heartbreaking photo of a drowned Syrian boy on the shores of Turkey — and its connection to Canada — dominated the federal election Thursday, but experts say it's too early to say whether the fallout will mark a definitive turning point in the campaign.

The image of three-year-old Alan Kurdi lying on a beach and the revelation that his aunt in B.C. was eventually hoping to bring him here shook up the Conservative campaign.

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander suspended his campaign to return to Ottawa. Jason Kenney cancelled an announcement on immigration policy, and Prime Minister Stephen

Harper postponed a photo-op before later addressing the issue at a news conference.

"Refugee policy alone is not remotely a solution to this problem. It is of a scale far, far beyond that," Harper said, while also highlighting the Canadian military's engagement in the fight against the Islamic State in the region.

In Toronto, NDP leader Tom Mulcair took a circumspect approach.

"As a grandfather, it's just unbearable that we're doing nothing," he said. But he cautioned it was "too easy this morning to start assigning blame."

"Chris Alexander has a lot to answer for, but that's not where we are right now," he said.

Liberal leader Justin Trudeau was more blunt in his criticism of the Conservatives.

"You don't get to suddenly discover compassion in the middle of an election campaign," he said. "You either have it or you don't."

Although the Syrian refugee crisis became the issue of the day, strategists said it's much too early to tell what effect,

"I think the opposition parties have been given an opportunity."

Elly Alboim

if any, the photo will have on the campaign and the parties' fortunes.

"I've heard people say 'Well this could be the turning point in the election.' I think it's way too early to make that argument," said Conservative strategist Tim Powers, vice-chairman at Summa Strategies. "It has the potential to have an impact, but I don't think that impact is solely focused on the Conservatives."

"I think people have very low tolerance for politicians during an election campaign trying to take advantage of a serious, meaningful, sad story," he added.

Powers said he thought Mulcair's deep-breath approach was more effective than Trudeau's,

which he thought "went a little far going after Alexander on compassion."

And he said Harper is doing what he needs to do, which is speak to the story in terms of the facts in play.

"I think the government can make a reasonable case as the prime minister did in his news conference that look, we are looking to act, we are acting, but you have to address things in the region," he said.

Whether the issue will affect vote choice in the long run is very hard to tell right now, said Elly Alboim, a former CBC Ottawa bureau chief and, later, a key advisor to Paul Martin.

"The issue is whether there are going to be people who've been considering the Conservatives who now may decide not to, compelled by the picture and what may seem to be a lack of generosity," said Alboim, principal at Earncliffe Strategy Group.

He said while it's difficult to determine whether the photo will change people's minds, it will make the debate over refugee and immigration policy more lively and relevant.

REACTION

Ottawa 'stands ready' to welcome Syrian refugees: Mayor

Mayor Jim Watson sent a formal letter to Canada's immigration minister Thursday, saying the city wants to open its doors to more refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.

The mayor's urgent outreach to Chris Alexander of officials comes after a photo

emerged of a lifeless three-year-old Syrian boy, Alan Kurdi, washed up on a beach on the shores of Turkey, which has sparked worldwide outrage.

The dramatic photo, splashed across newspapers around the world, has put a

human face on the migrant crisis in Europe that has worsened in recent months.

The letter said Watson is watching "with great concern" the events surrounding the crisis and affirmed he is committed to assist with the settlement in Canada's capital

of those affected.

"I would like to ask for the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and other relevant federal partners to identify what role the municipal sector could play," wrote Watson.

"It would be helpful if you

could assign a senior official to liaise with City of Ottawa staff to ensure a strong co-ordination of federal plans on the local level."

The letter also mentioned Ottawa's history with aiding people in need, an apparent nod to former Ottawa

mayor Marion Dewar, who, in 1979, welcomed thousands of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees to the city. Her Project 4000 led to residents sponsoring refugees who made Ottawa their home.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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5

THINGS TO DO IN OTTAWA THIS WEEKEND

Hot air balloons, Serbian culture, music and Canadian art – there's lots to stay in town for this Labour Day weekend. **HALEY RITCHIE** METRO

1 Ottawa Ska Fest

Old is new again, and although ska music — a precursor to reggae — might have peaked in the 90s it's back again at House of Targ this weekend. Bands are attending from Ottawa and Montreal, including The Beatdown, The Cardboard Crowns, Suits 'n' Toques and the Sentries. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

**3 Japanese Film Week**

Saturday is the last day to enjoy the Embassy of Japan's weeklong presentation of Japanese film. There are seven full-length films being shown in Japanese with English subtitles. Stories range from a drama about a young woman who starts a rent-a-cat service to a parks-and-recreation style comedy about an office worker getting publicity for the city.

Friday and Saturday

**2 Hot Air Balloon Festival**

It's lift-off at Baie Parc in Gatineau this weekend. Hot air balloons of various shapes and colours take off between 6 and 7 p.m. daily Thursday to Monday. On the weekend they also take place 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Other festivities include live music, graffiti competition and buskers.

All weekend

**4 Alex Colville**

The long weekend is your last chance to see one of Canada's most famous painters. Alex Colville died two years ago, and the expansive exhibition has travelled from the AGO to the National Gallery. It includes iconic works and a look at how the Nova Scotian artist influenced pop culture. **All weekend**

5 Serbian Festival

A celebration of Serbian culture opens Saturday at 1989 Prince of Wales Drive. Expect lots of dancing, music and a tennis tournament. Items on the menu include Burek, a flaky filo and cheese pastry or Serbian desserts including crepes and custard.

Saturday and Sunday



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Brendan Mertens, 30, hosted a podcast about a 1984 movie for five years, which is how he discovered enthusiast groups across the continent. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

Bustin' makes them feel good

PROJECTS

Former council candidate films doc on fans of Ghostbusters



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

One of Brendan Mertens' earliest memories is watching Ghostbusters as a three-year-old, seeing Bill Murray's character getting slimed, and laughing uproariously while his father rewound the tape to watch it again.

Now, the 30-year-old Ottawan is directing, producing and writing a documentary about Ghostbusters fans across the globe.

Ghostheads got a huge boost when Paul Feig, the director of the upcoming Ghostbusters reboot, tweeted the trailer to his 1.4 million followers.

"I didn't think it would snow-



Initially, I was thinking I could make a YouTube kind of thing. Now it's a real movie.

Brendan Mertens

ball the way it did," Mertens said. "Initially, I was thinking I could make a YouTube kind of thing. Now it's a real movie."

Robin Shelby, who played Slimer (in costume) in Ghostbusters 2, is narrating the film, he said.

Mertens ran for city council in Bay ward last year and became notable for his amusing anti-bear campaign videos and for generally stirring things up.

He also hosted a Ghostbusters-themed podcast for five years, which is how he discovered fan groups across the continent.

"I didn't realize how big a deal this was to a lot of people ... that each state and every province has got a Ghostbusters chapter," he said. He's learned of more than 100 the world over.

Mertens started planning the documentary two years ago, and filming started in May. The health-care worker is investing much of his own money in the project; he is looking to make some of that back, he said.

"My wife is getting nervous now, because I did put up quite a bit of my own money," he said. "As encouraging as she is, I get worried that she thinks I traded a cow for some magic beans."

Mertens said he's drawing comparisons to Trekkies, a 1997 documentary about Star Trek fans, but doesn't welcome them.

"That is the last movie I'm trying to emulate," he said. His film is "not about why people love Ghostbusters; it's about the people who love Ghostbusters and what they're like."

3 things to check before school starts

University students have already descended on the city and will finish up frosh celebrations this week. For students in lower grades, Labour Day weekend is the last taste of freedom before Sept. 8. For parents, it's hopefully a relaxing weekend as well — and not a mad scramble. Here are three things to double-check before Tuesday:



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

1 BUSING

Start times and bus routes have changed for many students, including redrawn lines that could mean a new morning routine. Walk zones have been expanded for many schools, meaning students may no longer qualify for a bus.

Parents can double check before school begins on the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority's Stop Finder.

2 LATE GRADES

Some students attending OCDSB schools didn't receive report cards or final grades

because of the labour dispute that continued into June. After teachers refused to electronically enter data for report cards, summer staff had to be reassigned to put together a report-card replacement.

The "marks summary" will not look the same as a report card but will provide basic information. OCDSB spokeswoman Sharlene Hunter said the very last summaries were mailed out Aug. 31, as promised. If you live in Ottawa, you should have the marks before school begins.

3 IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Ottawa Public Health has been pushing this summer

to update and correct its vaccination records.

Parents of 63,000 children got phone calls over the summer, asking them to call, fax or submit immunization information.

Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act, students across Ontario are required to be vaccinated against nine different diseases: mumps, measles, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, whooping cough, chickenpox and meningococcal.

Students whose records remain incomplete will be suspended from school until the information is collected, so it's important to make sure students' records have been updated.

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NDP keeps Liberal bastion in its sights

ELECTION 2015

Ottawa-Vanier has been red for 80 years

Jessica Murphy
For Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa-Vanier's incumbent Liberal MP, Mauril Belanger,

welcomed his political rivals to the campaign this week in what will be one of the must-watch ridings in the Ottawa region.

"Looking forward to meeting them and discussing local issues in the upcoming public debates," he said Thursday.

So despite the high stakes, the sides are committing to keep it clean in what's likely to be a bare knuckles political fight.



Looking forward to meeting them and discuss local issues in the upcoming public debates

Mauril Belanger, the incumbent Liberal MP

The riding is the definition of a Liberal stronghold — it's been solid red for 80 years and Belanger's represented the residents there since 1995.

But the New Democrats

think if they pick up more seats in the Ottawa region, this will be one of them.

Belanger is facing a serious challenge from New Democrat Emilie Taman, who won her party's nomination last

week. The Grits know that it's going to be a tough fight to hold on to their historic seat.

Taman is a star candidate for the party — the daughter of former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour who gave up her job as a federal lawyer to run for the New Democrats.

New Democrats also say the riding association has plenty of cash on hand.

Incumbent NDP MP Paul

Dewar has been helping neighbouring ridings bolster their fundraising, ground-game organization and other resources over the past couple of years in a handful of local ridings like Ottawa-Vanier.

Metro Ottawa is pleased to welcome veteran political journalist Jessica Murphy to our federal election campaign coverage. Each week, she will take us behind the scenes of Ottawa's local campaigns.

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Ottawa Centre NDP candidate Paul Dewar speaks at city hall Thursday morning, accompanied by, from left, candidates Kc Larocque, Emilie Taman and Sean Devine. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

ELECTION 2015

Mayor meets final local candidates

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

which would create more stable funding.

"It's not just about putting money in a big pot, it's about giving cities predictable funding," Dewar said.

He also vowed to restore the relationship between the federal government and public servants, which he said has been frayed by "decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts."

Watson has now hosted briefings for candidates from all four parties about municipal concerns such as economic development, tourism, light rail transit plan and affordable housing.

They haven't all gone smoothly. No Conservative candidates showed up to their scheduled briefing. It was rescheduled, but only two showed up to the do-over on Monday.

The NDP is looking to make gains in Ottawa; Dewar is their only incumbent Ottawa MP. Each candidate addressed media after Thursday morning's meeting, introducing themselves and taking questions.

Local NDP candidates met with Mayor Jim Watson on Thursday morning, the last of four such briefings Watson hosted to discuss local issues with federal candidates.

Eight of nine Ottawa NDP candidates met with the mayor and city staff. Only Normand Laurin, the candidate in Glenarry-Prescott-Russell, was absent.

After the meeting, Ottawa Centre incumbent Paul Dewar vowed to push for municipal representation on the National Capital Commission's board of directors — something Mayor Watson has requested.

He also touted the NDP's plan for a national housing strategy and its commitment to fund a third of Phase 2 of LRT — something the other parties have also committed to.

He also said the NDP would help cities by committing an additional cent of the gas tax,

Oyez, oyez, oyez! Crier vies for gold

PEOPLE

Daniel Richer dit Laflèche heads to World Championship



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

It's almost 30 C and Daniel Richer dit Laflèche is sitting outside in the blazing sun wearing a full, white wool suit, leather boots and a cape.

"I feel as comfortable wearing these clothes as I would a pair of jeans," he said, without a drop of sweat on his forehead.

Richer has been wearing similar 18th-century style uniforms for 34 years as the town crier for Ottawa, Gatineau and Ontario. Later this month, he will fly to Central Otago, New Zealand for the World Town Crier Championships, held Sept. 24 to 30. Twenty criers from six countries are competing, eight of whom are women.

Richer is going into the competition with three overall title championships, and a slew of nods for "most elegant" town crier.

"I think it's my French side that says it's more important to look good than sound loud," he said.

It's not the loudest town crier who wins, although volume plays a part. A mix of diction, pronunciation, costume,

entrance and ability to keep the audience's attention play into the role. Whatever the proclamation is about, Richer must write and recite it in a succinct 100 to 120 words. A former actor, Richer's style is more theatrical, while other criers may be more military or people-oriented.

This white wool outfit — his summer attire — is one of 20 town crier outfits in his wardrobe, ranging from the Medieval

storyteller, wedding officiant and emcee.

In medieval times, the town crier was the official spokesperson for those who could not read or write. When asked what the relevance of the crier is these days, especially for those of us plugged into our phones, Richer says people are still craving "that human touch."

"Wherever the town crier is, between his uniform, his bell and his bellow, he will attract attention," he said. "Even if the sound system goes down, I'm still on."

Richer is hoping to bring the World Town Crier Tournament to Ottawa for the first time in 2017, when Canada turns 150 years old. While the role appeals to Richer's love of the style and protocol, he's mostly proud to represent the National Capital Region. "As soon as I leave my house, I'm an ambassador," he said.

Daniel Richer dit Laflèche, town crier for Ottawa, Gatineau and Ontario, says that when he travels overseas, he always flies wearing whatever costume he plans to don for the competition, in case it gets lost in transit.

**LUCY SCHOLEY/
METRO**

“Wherever the town crier is, between his uniform, his bell and his bellow, he will attract attention.” Daniel Richer dit Laflèche

French Court style to native regalia. When he travels overseas, he wears whatever uniform he plans to don for the competition, in case it gets lost en route.

"I have my own theme song when I go through metal detectors," he said, noting several uniforms have as many as 250 brass buttons. He will be travelling with his partner, Julia Dudley, who will also be in period costume. Needless to say, they garner a lot of attention at customs.

Richer travels a lot, averaging about 200 events a year around the world and in Canada. Apart from crying, he's a



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ADVERTISING

Francophone groups say new federal policies are troubling



Lucy Scholey
Metro|Ottawa

Several francophone com-

munity groups are voicing concerns to the country's language watchdog for what they say is an "extremely worrying" decline in federal advertising.

Last June, the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE), a francophone Nova Scotia organization, filed a complaint to the Commissioner of Official Languages against Public Works and Government Services Canada.

The group claims a new federal policy aims to advertise through Internet and television, rather than print and radio.

According to the group, this contravenes the Official Languages Act, which states that the federal government must support the development of minority francophone groups.

"The government's decision results in an extremely worrying reduction in annual



The bottom line is you just don't reach an important section of Canada. You're ignoring the minority population.

Richard Tardif, executive director of the QCNA

revenue for Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse (an Acadian newspaper) and community radio, which remain the preferred media by the Acadian community," reads a FANE

statement online.

Meanwhile, the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA) and the Ottawa-based Association de la presse francophone (APF) have

said they will file complaints.

The QCNA says it has seen a 98.5 per cent hit in federal advertising, while the APF has lost all its federal ad dollars.

A spokesperson for the Commissioner of Official Languages said the investigation could take up to six months.

A Public Works spokesperson said the department complies with the Official Languages Act and will be working with the commissioner.

End bill horror stories.



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Peter Penashue stepped down over illegitimate campaign expenses in 2013. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

REBOUND

Controversial MP back on Tory ticket

The online list of election candidates for the Conservative party now includes Peter Penashue in Labrador, a former federal cabinet minister who stepped down over illegitimate campaign expenses in 2013.

Penashue couldn't be reached for comment after his name appeared on the party's website Thursday, but a Conservative source said the former inter-governmental affairs minister is expected to announce his candidacy Friday.

Last month, Penashue said he was considering running again after gauging support in the sprawling riding.

In the 2011 election, the Innu leader was the only Conservative to win a seat in Newfoundland and Labrador, edging out the Liberal incumbent by a slim 79-vote margin.

He stepped down from politics in March 2013 amid mounting questions about his campaign

financing.

Penashue lost a subsequent byelection two months later to Liberal challenger Yvonne Jones.

Reg Bowers, Penashue's former official agent, was later charged under the Canada Elections Act with three counts involving acceptance of illegal funds.

Last month, seven companies acknowledged giving illegal donations to Penashue's 2011 campaign.

The admissions of responsibility, spelled out in agreements struck with the commissioner of elections, did not constitute a criminal conviction or create a criminal record.

Executives from six firms admitted they directed their companies to donate \$1,000 each to Penashue's campaign. As well, the CEO of Pennecon Ltd. said six of his company's officers were involved in donating a \$5,500 corporate cheque. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Stittville man wins \$100K

A fun family vacation is in the works after Lawrence Insley of Stittville won \$100,000 thanks to ENCORE.

He won the \$100,000 in the Aug. 15 LOTTO 6/49 draw by matching six of the seven winning numbers on his ENCORE selection.

"I couldn't believe it," Lawrence said while at the OLG prize centre in Toronto where

he picked up his winnings. "In fact, I was so shocked I actually used the ticket checker five times."

Lawrence regularly plays ENCORE and even knows someone else who has won.

The winning ticket was purchased at Brown's Your Independent Grocer on Stittville Main Street in Stittville.

JOHN CURRY/METROLAND MEDIA

No signs of construction slowdown

INFRASTRUCTURE

\$180 million invested in more than 60 new projects



Lucy Scholey
Metro|Ottawa

Commuters can expect continued traffic snarl-ups and delays in Ottawa's downtown core this fall because construction season shows no signs of slowing down.

In fact, the city is ramping up construction, with 45 new projects that range from road widening to bridge replacements. A total of 120 sites will be active over the fall, including the Arts Court re-

development, Nicholas Street, the Donald-Somerset Street pedestrian bridge and Lyon Street.

"Now we're in the thick of it," said Knoxdale-Merivale Coun. Keith Egli, chair of the transportation committee, during a technical briefing of the work on Thursday morning.

Most of the work is linked to the new light rail trans-

it (LRT) Confederation Line and motorists will feel the brunt of it on Nicholas Street and Laurier Avenue, as well as Rideau Street between Sussex Drive and Dalhousie.

Buses have already moved from the eastern Transitway to new bus-only lanes on Highway 417 and Ottawa Road 174.

Therefore, university stu-

dents heading back to class should double-check their transit schedules for route changes over the summer. OC Transpo officials have also been hitting campuses to help students navigate the routes hit hardest by construction work.

City officials recommend telecommuting, carpooling or taking alternative transportation to work.

\$240M

Invested in infrastructure renewal at more than 195 sites, including:
• 53 resurfacing projects
• 69 bridges, culverts and other structural projects
• 46 road renewal projects



Shoppers check out wares on opening day. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO FILE

FARMER'S MARKET

Lansdowne isn't right fit: Vendors



Haley Ritchie
Metro|Ottawa

Last week farmer's market vendors staged a silent protest after being asked to shut down early by the city. Pork of Yore owner Ida Vaillancourt said that's just one of the many issues she's had with Lansdowne Park.

On Sunday, Vaillancourt packed up her stall early as she was asked, but she's frustrated by a year of low sales and problems with the market's new location.

"Lansdowne Park is not a good fit for this market, plain and simple," said Vaillancourt.

She said she misses the days of local residents showing up to Brewer Park in their pajamas to buy bacon for Sunday breakfast. At Lansdowne, she claims fuses

often blow, there's loud traffic and there are no anchors in the pavement to hold down tents.

She said many of the people at the square "are tourists, not shoppers" and the hot pavement makes for tough afternoons.

Market manager Craig Murkar said everyone has been affected by growing pains, including Lansdowne's managers.

"The numbers aren't exactly up to what they were back at Brewer Park, and that's the comparison the vendors would like to make, but I don't think that's necessarily fair," said Murkar.

"It's been a transition move and we're starting to see a lot of regular customers coming back out. The numbers are starting to reflect that," he said.

Dan Chenier, the city's manager of parks, did not respond to a request for comment.

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IN BRIEF

City unveils renovated community centre

Officials unveiled the newly renovated Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Centre Thursday, which now has two storeys of additional floor space and a 1,000-square foot library.

Renovations started last August after the community raised \$300,000 to help cover the cost of the \$1.725 million project. The new centre includes multi-purpose rooms, an expanded library, a group kitchen, a café and a patio. METRO

INNOVATION

Country gets C on report card

Canada's record on innovation is improving, but experts say governments can do more to support new and emerging businesses.

The Conference Board of Canada, an Ottawa-based think-tank, has given the country a C on its latest innovation report card. That's an improvement from a D rating in the previous report, yet Canada still ranks only ninth among 16 peer countries, while corporate spending on research has fallen to the bottom of the list.

Conference Board CEO Daniel Muzyka said Canada's improvement in the ranking is due to better numbers on venture capital investment and entrepreneurial ambition, a new measure that takes account of the number of working-age Canadians reporting entrepreneurial activity such as setting up a new business.

"While Canada's overall ranking is slightly better, it masks downward trends in some key innovation drivers and highlights the need for the private and public sectors to improve their innovation game in a much more competitive environment," said Muzyka.

Public spending on research declined from 0.89 per cent of GDP in 2009 to 0.81 per cent in 2013, according to the report.

In the same period, private spending on research and development has fallen from 1.02 per cent of GDP to 0.82 per cent, half of the 16-country average.

University of Waterloo professor Margaret Dalziel said Canada's poor showing comes from its reliance on natural resources, where research spending is low relative to revenues, and the dominance of well-established, large corporations that look for incremental upgrades rather than disruptive change.

Dalziel, who teaches at the school's centre for entrepreneurship, said federal and provincial government have made the mistake of using broad programs such as tax credits to stimulate innovation and could do more to encourage the private sector.

Transformative ideas, she said, are unlikely to come from the kind of focused research that goes on at older companies with set ways of doing business, regardless of their size.

Rather, she said, governments should stimulate new and emerging businesses, but by having focused programs and not just throwing money at them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian retailers urged to eliminate on-call shifts

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Employees stressed out by volatile schedules

The rise of so-called precarious employment in Canada — mainly work in the services and retail sectors — has brought with it some questionable employer practices that have employees stressed out and labour activists fuming.

They're calling for the elimination of "on-call" shifts, a practice where management schedules shifts for part-time employees each week, but then requires them to call in ahead of their start time to find out if they're actually working.

"It's really quite troubling from a 'good jobs' perspective because it sometimes forces people into financial turmoil," said Andrew Langille, a labour lawyer based in Toronto.

"This is a growing problem for young workers in their 20s and 30s who make up a significant chunk of retail and service workers. I've seen pretty high rates of mental health issues among this group of workers. It also drives stress and anxiety to a pretty high degree."

In recent months, lawmakers in the United States have taken notice of a growing discontent with volatile workplace schedules.

In April, New York attorney general Eric Schneiderman sent a letter to a group of large retailers asking for more details on how they operate "on-call" shifts. He also questioned whether forcing employees to adhere to "on-call" scheduling was legal.

Schneiderman's symbolic gesture sent ripples through



The Gap is joining the list of retailers in North America who are phasing out uncertain work timings at their stores. GETTY IMAGES

the industry and pressured several large U.S. retailers to change how they book their staff hours.

Both Abercrombie & Fitch and Victoria's Secret announced plans to discontinue "on-call" shifts shortly after the letter was sent.

Gap Inc. joined the group last month by saying it would phase out "on-call" shifts across all of its North American stores by the end of September.

In Canada, similar changes for worker rights are harder to come by, though there have been some inroads in recent months.

This is a growing problem for young workers in their 20s and 30s who make up a significant chunk of retail and service workers.

Andrew Langille, labour lawyer based in Toronto



This summer, Unifor, the union representing Metro employees at stores in the Greater Toronto Area reached an agreement with management to give staff more predictable schedules. The deal also guarantees part-timers a minimum of 15 hours of work after working

for one year.

Changes have also been made at some Loblaw stores in Ontario as well.

The supermarket chain reached an agreement with the United Food and Commercial Workers for a pilot project at its 60 Great Food and

Superstores locations in the province. Under the plan, some employees will get more reliable weekly hours and every-one more advanced schedule notice.

But the new standards at Loblaw's don't cover all staff members, and that has left some employees frustrated.

One staff member from Ontario, who asked to withhold her name over concerns that she may be fired for speaking out, said Loblaw has shifted pressure to its newer employees and that has taken a toll on her family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KIT AND ACE

Luxury retailer brews change

Kit and Ace has plans for significant expansion in the coming months, but the retailer is already brewing up big change with the introduction of in-store coffee shops.

The Canadian apparel brand will launch Sorry Coffee Co., in select cities including Toronto, at its new 3,300-square-foot flagship location slated to open on Sept. 17, said Kit and Ace co-founder JJ Wilson, the son of Lululemon founder

Chip Wilson.

The coffee shop moniker was an attempt to poke fun at Canadians — a winking nod to the quick-to-apologize stereotype, Wilson said.

"When I look at how the world is changing in retail and experiential retail, and how people want to shop and what they're looking for, they're looking for more than just a clothing store," Wilson said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kit and Ace co-founder and head of brand JJ Wilson.

CONTRIBUTED/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Tech giants paying \$415M to settle workers' lawsuit

A U.S. federal judge has approved a \$415 million US settlement that ends a lengthy legal saga revolving around allegations that Apple, Google and several other Silicon Valley companies secretly agreed not to poach each other's workers. More than 64,000 technology workers will get \$5,800 apiece.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fatima Kurdi speaks to reporters outside her home in Coquitlam, B.C., on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

'Step in and help the refugees'

metr NEWS The Syrian Crisis The Tragedy

Aunt speaks out about family's plight seeking asylum

The aunt of two drowned Syrian boys recalled her brother's harrowing battle to save his sons, at two emotional news conferences Thursday in Coquitlam, B.C., and said the tragedy would help wake people up and pay attention to the migrant crisis.

"Now the whole world is going to watch my story. Where was all the world before when my kids were hungry? When I

didn't have a job?" said Tima Kurdi.

"I want to tell the rest of the world, at this point, to step in and help the refugees."

Kurdi said her brother Abdullah described to her the horror of the boys dying in his arms and screamed: "Please don't die!" at their lifeless bodies.

"He said he tried with all his power," she said.

Kurdi addressed the media twice Thursday, in order to clarify her family's plight seeking asylum in Canada.

She had applied for refugee status in Canada for her brother Mohamad, and planned to apply for Abdullah next. But when Mohamad's application was denied, she knew there was no hope bringing Abdul-

lah here.

Kurdi said she started Mohamad's application first because his children were older and needed to be in school.

"It was really bad to tell them this ... 'I'm sorry I can't bring you here,'" she said.

Mohamad settled in Germany, and Abdullah wanted to follow with his own family. But Abdullah's wife was scared of the perilous journey across the water to Greece, Kurdi said.

"She said to me, 'I really don't want to go, I don't know how to swim,'" Kurdi said. "I said, 'Just put your life jacket on, you'll be fine.'"

Kurdi said she did all she could to help her brothers and their families, including wiring them \$5,000 to help pay the smuggler for their escape.

"I shouldn't have sent the money," she said.

Kurdi said she moved to Canada in 1992 after marrying a Canadian and worked to bring family members to Canada and safety.

Asked what should be done to prevent future tragedies, she said: "Stop the war."

She said Abdullah now wants to travel to their hometown of Kobani in Syria near the Turkish border to bury his boys.

"He has to bury them in their own country," she said.

He also wants to put bananas on their graves, as it was their favourite treat, she said.

Kurdi praised NDP MP Fin Donnelly for trying to help and delivering a plea for assistance to Conservative immigration minister Chris Alexander.

"And no response," she said.

Abdullah told reporters after identifying his sons' bodies that Canadian officials had offered him citizenship after seeing what had happened but that he declined. The Canadian government denies offering him citizenship.

Kurdi said she has not heard of anyone being offered citizenship, but wishes her family could be reunited in

+ TURKEY

Turkey has won international praise for taking in two million refugees since the Syrian civil war began in March 2011, spending \$6 billion caring for them and receiving just \$400 million in outside aid.

But it has warned it is reaching capacity, and thousands are now making the perilous journey

by boat from Turkey to Greece in a bid to enter Europe.

"European countries, which have turned the Mediterranean, the cradle of the world's oldest civilizations, into a cemetery for refugees, shares the sin for every refugee who loses their life," Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said.

Canada.

"But this is the law and you have to follow it," she said.

The Kurdi family had made a privately sponsored refugee application to the Canadian authorities that was rejected in June due to complications with applications from Turkey.

Kurdi said the family had money and plenty of room to house little Alan Kurdi, his brother and parents.

Security officials in Mugla said the bodies of Abdul-

lah's two sons and wife would be flown via Istanbul to the southeastern city of Sanliurfa, from where they would be taken by road to the Syrian border town of Kobani.

Kobani, the family's hometown, has been the scene of intense fighting over the last year. In recent months Kurdish regional forces have been trying to repel attempts by Islamic State to recapture the town.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I wasn't asking the Canadian government to drain the system. I can pay for everything."

Tima Kurdi, aunt of two drowned Syrian boys

Policy won't stop tragic refugee deaths: Harper

metr The Syrian Crisis The Political Fallout

Immigration minister halts campaign in wake of tragedy

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada's refugee policy isn't enough to stop the tragic deaths of refugees in Europe.

"We could drive ourselves crazy with grief, obviously we try to do what we can do to help," Harper said, but he said adding more resources to speed up the flow of refugees is not "of itself a reasonable moral reaction or solution to this problem."

Speaking at a Conservative rally in Surrey, B.C., Harper addressed the refugee crises in Europe that hit home yesterday when photographs of a drowned Syrian 3-year-old boy made headlines. He said he and his wife found it "heart-wrenching."

"I think our reaction to that, the first thing that crossed our mind was remembering our son Ben at that age," Harper said.

"It brings tears to our eyes," he said. "It truly is a heart-breaking situation and a terrible tragedy."

But Harper said the report that the child pictured in the image and his family was denied refugee asylum is "not correct."

"There was no record of an application received for Mr. Abdullah Kurdi and his family," Citizenship and Immigration Canada spokesman Jean-Bruno Villeneuve said in a statement.

"Refugee policy alone is not a solution to this process,"

Harper said.

News of the tragedy derailed Conservative election campaign events Thursday.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney cancelled a security-related immigration announcement; Harper delayed an infrastructure announcement.

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander dropped campaign plans to rush to Ottawa and "ascertain both the facts of the case of the Kurdi family and to receive an update on the migrant crisis," he said in an emailed statement.

"The tragic photo of young Alan Kurdi and the news of the death of his brother and mother broke hearts around the world," Alexander said.

The boys' father, Abdullah Kurdi, told reporters after identifying his sons' bodies Thursday that Canadian officials had offered him citizenship after seeing what had happened but that he declined.

"Canada did not offer citizenship to Mr. Abdullah Kurdi," immigration spokesman Villeneuve said.

Kurdi's sister Fatima said all her brother wants now is take the bodies of his boys and wife back to their Syrian hometown of Kobane.

Sobbing at a news conference outside her Coquitlam, B.C. home, the woman who came to Canada in 1992 said Abdullah needed to get about \$14,000 in denture work.

The boys' uncle, Rocco Logozzo, told The Canadian Press that the system is designed to



Stephen Harper speaks about the Syrian refugee crisis during a campaign event in B.C. on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



WHERE THE LEADERS ARE FRIDAY

● **Justin Trudeau** will be in Toronto and Richmond Hill, Ont.

● **Tom Mulcair** will be in Brossard, Que.

● **Elizabeth May** will be in Montreal.

Stephen Harper's itinerary was unavailable.

fail. He adds his family had money and plenty of room to house Alan and his brother and parents at his home in Coquitlam. Logozzo said his

relatives were desperate.

"When they heard (the refugee application) failed, they lost all hope, and in a desperate situation, you make all these wrong decisions," Logozzo said.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair became particularly emotional at news conference Thursday. "The international community has failed," he said. "Canada has failed." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Minister at heart of controversy is a rising star in Harper's cabinet

The Conservative candidate who finds himself at the centre of controversy over Canada's response to the European refugee crisis is a respected former diplomat who is considered a rising star in Stephen Harper's government.

Chris Alexander, the candidate for Ajax-Pickering and Harper's minister of citizenship and immigration, dropped his re-election campaigning on Thursday after poignant photos of a Syrian boy who drowned off the coast of Turkey were seen around the world.

In an email to Torstar News Service, Alexander said he was returning to Ottawa to be briefed on the migrant crisis.

NDP candidate Fin Donnelly told The Canadian Press that the boy's family had been trying to come to Canada, and Donnelly had personally asked Alexander to look into the case.

One brother had been turned down earlier this year and another still hoped to join his sister in B.C. before his family perished at sea.

Before entering politics, Alexander, 46, made a name for himself in the world of international diplomacy. He worked in the foreign service for 18 years, posted first to Moscow and later Afghanistan, where he became Canada's first resident ambassador.

After meeting his wife and starting a family in Kabul, in 2009 he quit diplomacy to return to Canada, where he decided to run for office. In 2011, he beat Liberal incum-

bent Mark Holland to become MP for the riding of Ajax-Pickering, and despite his age and inexperience as an MP, was appointed to cabinet two years later.

As minister of citizenship and immigration he presided over sweeping reforms to Canada's immigration system that he said were necessary to eliminate fraud and wasteful spending, but were heavily criticized by refugee advocates and opposition parties.

The reforms included reducing social assistance to refugees, and imposing stricter conditions on obtaining Canadian citizenship.

One reform, which limited refugee claimants' access to public health care, was struck down last year by the Federal Court, which deemed it "cruel and unusual."

Alexander stood by the changes to Canada's immigration regime, however, telling Torstar News Service last year: "Canadians are proud of the reforms we've brought to the immigration system. It's far better now than it was in 2006."

On Wednesday night, as photos of three-year-old Alan Kurdi's lifeless body were already being seen around the world, Alexander defended Canada's response to the refugee crisis on the CBC, saying the country is "a model of humanitarian action" and was "dramatically" increasing the number of refugees from Iraq and Syria that it would take in.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Immigration Minister Chris Alexander THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservatives postpone immigration announcement

The Conservative Party postponed a press conference at which it planned to tout its immigration policy, amid criticism of the Canadian government's response to the European migrant crisis.

On Wednesday afternoon the party sent reporters

a press release indicating that Conservative candidate Jason Kenney would be in Brampton, Ont. on Thursday to "make an important announcement on Conservative efforts to protect the integrity of Canada's immigration system and the security of

Canada."

On Thursday morning, party spokesperson Stephen Lecce sent out a second release saying the event had been "postponed to a later date."

The announcement came hours after Conservative can-

didate and former immigration minister Chris Alexander dropped his campaign plans to return to Ottawa to be briefed on the crisis.

Disturbing photos of 3-year-old Alan Kurdi's body on the Turkish beach have been viewed around the world. His

mother and 5-year-old brother also died while trying to make the passage from Turkey.

Speaking about the migrant crisis at a press conference on Thursday, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair said "Canada has failed."

Lecce didn't respond dir-

ectly when Torstar News Service asked if Kenney's event had been cancelled because of controversy over Canada's handling of the refugee issue. He said reporters would be notified when the announcement is rescheduled.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Religious strife at heart of conflict

metr The Syrian Crisis The Tragedy

Hundreds of thousands are dead, millions are displaced



Luke Simcoe
Metro|Toronto

Fighting in Syria has claimed the lives of 240,000 people, many of them civilians, and nearly half of the country's 23 million residents have been displaced.

This is how the crisis began, and what Canada is doing to help.

- **1963:** The Ba'athist regime, led by General Hafez al-Assad, seizes power in Syria in a coup d'état. The Assad family is seen to represent Syria's Shi'ite Muslims, leading to tensions with the country's majority Sunni population, as well as a minority of ethnic Kurds.
- **2000:** Hafez al-Assad dies, passing control of the country to his

son, Bashar al-Assad.

- **January 2011:** What's now known as the Syrian Civil War begins with the Arab Spring of 2011. Protests are staged across the country calling for Assad's resignation and the end of Ba'athist rule. Assad responds to the protests with military force, leading to the death of hundreds of protestors.

- **July 2011:** By the latter half of 2011, a coalition of armed forces known as the Free Syrian Army has formed to oppose Assad's military. Fighting erupts in several Syrian towns and the tide of displaced refugees begins.

- **April 2012:** Kofi Annan, acting as the United Nations representative for Syria, tries unsuccessfully to broker a ceasefire between the Assad regime and the FSA.

- **June 2012:** The UN officially declares Syria to be in a state of civil war.

- **2013:** Throughout 2013, the conflict in Syria attracts Islamic extremists and other militants from the surrounding region, including the newly formed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or ISIS).

- **July 2013:** Canadian Immigration Minister Jason Kenney pledges



Refugees from Syria walk along the roads of the border town of Idomeni in northern Greece, hoping to cross into Macedonia on Tuesday, Aug. 25. SANTI PALACIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

es to bring 1,300 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of 2014. The Conservatives claim this target was met by March 2015, although organizations working with the refugees have disputed the government's numbers.

- **October 2014:** The Canadian Parliament approves air strikes against ISIL targets in Syria. Throughout the conflict, the Conservative government has focused its messaging on

combating extremists in the region rather than the humanitarian crisis. For example, in the government's official timeline of the crisis — available online — the phrase ISIS is used 55 times, while "refugee" appears only twice.

- **January 2015:** The federal government announces plans to take in 10,000 Syrian refugees over the next three years. At this point in the conflict, Germany

has already accepted at least 70,000 refugees from Syria.

- **August 2015:** The Conservatives reiterate their plan to resettle 10,000 refugees from war-torn Syria, saying they will open additional spots for persecuted religious minorities. To date, however, the country has only accepted about 2,500 refugees.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS AND TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4,088,078

The number of Syrian refugees around the world registered with the United Nations as of Aug. 29, 2015.

7.6M

The estimated number of Syrians who have been displaced within the country.

\$700M

Canada's contribution to aid efforts in Syria.

2,302

The number of Syrian refugees resettled in Canada, as of July 27, 2015.

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N.S. ready to open its doors: Minister

Nova Scotia's deputy premier says the province is willing to accept more refugees but hasn't heard back from Ottawa.

Diana Whalen said Thursday that the province told federal officials earlier in the summer that it was willing to help and is now reiterating that position.

Whalen said the issue is important and more should be done.

"We can as a country do more," she said. "I think Canadians and Nova Scotians would

like to see our country step up and do more."

Nova Scotia has the ability to accept more refugees, she added.

"We've made it clear we want to open our doors and accept more," Whalen said.

She said the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, which provides refugee support services in the province, has the facilities and the ability to support refugees. The organization is funded by the provincial government. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Tarek Habash, of the Syrian Assembly of Manitoba, says the Canadian government has to do more to help Middle Eastern refugees. DAVE BAXTER/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Federal government urged to step up



Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

A member of the Syrian community in Winnipeg says the disturbing image of a dead boy who drowned while his family was fleeing Syria is a reminder of how much more the Canadian government should be doing to help Middle Eastern refugees.

The widely shared picture released Wednesday shows three-year-old Alan Kurdi drowned and face down on the shores of a Turkish resort town.

His family was trying to reach the Greek island of Kos when their boat capsized.

His brother and mother also died.

It had been reported the boy's family had tried to get into Canada but their refugee application had been denied in June. However, Prime Minister Stephen Harper denies the families had applied to get into the country.

"It is sad the world has to see horrible images like this in order to act," said Tarek Habash, of the

Syrian Assembly of Manitoba.

Canada must start allowing more refugees into the country and speed up the process for them to get in, said Habash.

"Other countries with far less resources have taken in far more refugees," said Habash.

Habash knows Syrian families in Winnipeg who are working to privately sponsor loved ones to come to Canada, but he said the Canadian government is making that process far too difficult.

"It can take one to two years after applying, but there isn't time to wait. These people are often fleeing their homes with nothing more than the clothes on their back."

Habash is also concerned the Harper government will try to fix the problem by stepping up the military fight against ISIS.

"That will not be the solution. This crisis started before the rise of ISIS, and there are refugees fleeing parts of the country not ruled by ISIS."

Habash is calling on Canadian citizens to pressure their local MPs for changes that will allow more refugees to enter Canada.



A refugee looks at the barbed wire fence from the Serbian side of the border to the Hungarian town of Roszke on Thursday.

SANTI PALACIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slow process spawns 'desperate measures'

metr The Syrian Crisis Canadians Rally

Applicants face long wait to settle in Canada legally

Neal Hall
For Metro

Syrian refugees are taking desperate measures to come to Canada because of the complex and lengthy process, says a Vancouver immigration lawyer.

"Current processing times are four to five years," Laura Best said regarding the legal process

for Syrian refugees to come to Canada, many of whom have friends and relatives here who sponsor them.

She said some try to enter Canada on visitor visas and then seek refugee status, but since the start of the war in Syria, the federal government often refuses visitor visas on the belief that they will not return to their home country.

"What we're seeing is that when legal avenues are closed, desperate measures are taken," Best said, referring to stories in the media of a man trying to flee Turkey for Greece by boat with his family, reportedly with the goal of living with his brother in Coquitlam.

The boat capsized and the man's wife and two young children drowned. Photos of the



The numbers that Canada is talking about resettling is so low.... 3,000 a year (from Syria) is a drop in the bucket.

Immigration lawyer
Laura Best

tragedy are horrifying evidence of the Syrian crisis.

Best said those seeking to legally enter Canada can seek refugee sponsorship by the Canadian government or private sponsorship through church groups and non-government or-

ganizations. Another option is the G5 program: having a group of five Canadian adults sponsor a refugee and having representatives in the area where the refugee plans to live.

Prior to 2012, those coming through the G5 program did not need to be recognized as refugees by either the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or a foreign state — the Canadian government would do the assessment of whether they met the definition of a refugee, Best said.

But since 2012, after amendments to Immigration and Refugee Protection regulations, Canada now requires G5 refugees to acquire a determination from the UNHCR or a third state to come through the program, Best said.

Call them refugees, not migrants: Experts



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

It's a world of difference what you call Syrian people trying to cross over into other European countries.

Some may still be calling them migrants, but two local experts insist they fit every definition of refugees.

"It's a forced migration and at some point, I think, the category of refugee needs to be applied," said Jens Hanssen, a Middle East

expert who's been studying the Arab awakening in historical perspective.

A German-Canadian who's lived and learned Arabic in Damascus, Hanssen has been watching as his native country made a distinction between the two terms and accepted Syrians as refugees. He couldn't agree with the policy more, comparing the Syrians to Jews in 1900s. Those Jews who didn't flee Germany ended up in concentration camps, he said.

"We have ISIS taking them into slavery, we have the Assad

regime bombing them from the air," he said. "They are as refugees as anybody in history where that term has applied."

Migrant generally refers to people who cross borders into countries where they aren't citizens, said Audrey Macklin, chairwoman of human rights law at the University of Toronto. Refugees are just a subset of migrants, but the term only applies to people escaping war, catastrophe or for any other security concern, she said.

The difference is in responsibilities each category brings.

States don't have any obligations to migrants and can even refuse to receive them, but they can't refuse refugees, she said.

"When you call somebody a refugee, you acknowledge that you have obligations toward them," she said.

Politicians who are referring to Syrians as migrants or other terms are simply deflecting the responsibility to protect them, as signatories of the refugee convention, Macklin said.

"I think that those who are fleeing the war right now from Syria are refugees."



Over 150,000 people have reached Hungary this year, most coming through the southern border with Serbia. Many apply for asylum but quickly try to leave for richer EU countries, like Germany. ZOLTAN BALOGH/MTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Train takes migrants to asylum camp

metr The Syrian Crisis
The Political Fallout

New standoff after station stops service to Western Europe

Thousands of people desperate to reach Western Europe rushed into a Budapest train station Thursday after police ended a two-day blockade, setting off a wave of anger and confusion as hundreds shoved their way onto a waiting train. But when it tried to drop them off at a Hungarian camp for asylum seekers, a bitter showdown began.

One man threw his wife and infant son onto the tracks, screaming in Arabic, "We won't move from here!" Police surrounded the prone family, pulled the husband away and handcuffed him as he wealed. His wife and diaper-clad boy — apparently uninjured — were freed and allowed to rejoin other migrants.

The scene was just one of many that unfolded Thursday as tempers flared in Hungary's war of wills with migrants trying to evade asylum checks and reach Western Europe.

As Hungary's anti-immigrant prime minister warned European partners that he intends to make his country's borders an impassible fortress for new arrivals, his government struggled to coax thousands of unwanted visitors away from the Budapest transportation hub that has been turned into a squalid refugee camp.

People fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa rushed into the Keleti train terminal when police unexpectedly withdrew Thursday morning, ending a blockade designed to stop migrants from boarding trains to their desired destinations in Germany and Austria.

In desperate scenes, people pushed each other to reach the train's six carriages, thinking that getting on board meant they would be first to escape Hungary. But instead of heading to the Austrian border, the overloaded train stopped at Bicske, a town northwest of Budapest that holds one of the country's five camps for asylum seekers — facilities the migrants want to avoid because they don't want to pursue asylum claims in economically depressed Hungary. As the train platform filled with police came into view, those inside chanted their disapproval.

The crowd, angrily waving train tickets to Vienna and Munich, refused police orders to board buses to the asylum centre, pushing their way past police and back onto the train. A day-long standoff ensued in which police and charity workers took turns handing food and water to the passengers, only to have them tossed out train windows in protest.

Back at the Budapest train station, announcements in Hungarian and English — but not Arabic, the language of most of those gathered inside — declared that all services from the station to Western Europe had been cancelled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q&A: Syria's civil war and the migrant crisis

metr The Syrian Crisis
The Tragedy

A look at the conflict and what compels Syrians to attempt the treacherous journey to Europe:

WHAT ARE THEY ESCAPING?

Barrel bombs, chemical weapons attacks, beheadings and starvation, to name just a few. Most of the refugees are driven by an overriding need to escape what has essentially become hell on earth, caught

between Syrian President Bashar Assad's ruthless war machine and the Islamic State group's brutality. Many Syrians say most unbearable are the barrel bombs dropped daily on opposition-held areas by Syrian army helicopters. The makeshift, shrapnel-packed explosive devices known by Syrians as death barrels pulverize entire neighbourhoods once they hit the ground. They have killed tens of thousands of people over the past four years, according to human rights organizations. Is-

lamic State militants have also been responsible for the exodus out of Syria. The militant group's takeover of a key town on the Turkish border in June, for instance, triggered a rush of desperate refugees pouring into Turkey, with some throwing their children over the border fence in a desperate attempt to get them to safety.

WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS?

Syria's brutal conflict, now in its fifth year, has touched off the

greatest humanitarian crisis of our time, according to UN officials. The organization estimates that around 250,000 people have been killed and more than one million wounded since March 2011. About half the country's prewar population of 23 million has been displaced, including more than 4 million who have fled Syria. Tactics such as encircling populated areas have caused untold cases of starvation, malnutrition and chronic illness.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If this is generous, Syrians are screwed. Resign, Alexander.

This should be the end. Not only of the Conservative's heel-dragging to settle desperate Syrian refugees, but of the political career of Chris Alexander.

On CBC's Power and Politics Wednesday, after the world saw the image of a dead boy tossed limply onto sand, the minister of citizenship and immigration scoffed at criticism of his government's response to the global refugee crisis.

The man, who in 2014 grossly misrepresented how few Syrians his government had settled, turned his evasive tongue on the media.

"The biggest conflict and humanitarian crisis of our time has been there for two years, and you and others have not put it in the headlines where it deserves to be," he accused.

A blatant lie, but worse, a callous remark. He was picking fights while people are dying.

The government maintains its refugee policy isn't to blame for the young brothers' deaths. It's wrong.

We have an application bureaucracy that some of the boys' extended family had already found impossible to navigate, requiring documents that some refugees can't produce. So, instead, the boy's aunt paid for him, his brother and parents to flee on a boat. Only the father survived.

When the application process is deemed futile by those it could save, that's deadly.

Across the country,

Canadians have battled the government to sponsor more Syrian refugees. Nova Scotia lobbied for that right, and met silence. And, because privately-sponsored Syrian refugees must have support from friends or family, Mennonites in Alberta have partnered with Syrians already in Canada to get more refugees to safety.

Yesterday, Alexander touted Canada as home to "one of most generous per capita immigration and refugee resettlement programs in the world." That is technically true, but in no way laudable.

There are four million Syrian refugees. The government has taken 2,500 so far, and, amid mounting pressure and an election campaign, committed this year to take a mere 20,000. If we're the most generous, Syrians are screwed.

Margaret Wente described Alexander in 2011 as an "unabashed idealist" and humanitarian. But there's no idealism in the Conservatives' treatment of refugees. Only an un-Canadian stinginess, and a cold disregard for human life.

No one man or country can fix a global humanitarian crisis. But one man can be held responsible for Canada's lacklustre efforts.

The dead boy is "reminding Canadians of our duty," Alexander said last night, in a mea-culpa appearance on Power and Politics. But time is up: He's already failed in his.

WHEN THERE ARE NO WORDS: ARTISTS SKETCH THEIR GRIEF FOR ALAN KURDI



"How his story should have ended"
SAVE KOBANE FACEBOOK



"New world map"
RAFAT ALKHATEEB



"I hope humanity finds a cure for visas"
@KHALIDALBAIH



Untitled
YASER AHMAD



"La honte" ("The shame")
@YGREK



"... does not protect you"
(This is a quotation from the poet Mahmoud Darwish) @NASERJAFARI

What you can do to help Syrian refugees in crisis



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Sadly, it took a heartbreaking picture of a three-year old lifeless body, face-down on the shore, for the world to pay closer attention to a crisis in Syria that has raged for more than four years.

At the office of Lifeline Syria, a Toronto-based initiative fighting to bring 1,000 Syrian refugees to Canada in the next two years, phones were ringing off the hook Thursday.

"I think the events of the last few days have really brought the situation to a peak in terms of public awareness and concern," Naomi Alboim, a member of the group's executive committee, told me.

That's a good thing. Don't get me wrong. What's not so good is that tragedy has to happen before the world reacted. Lifeline Syria has

been urging people to attend its recruitment and training sessions on sponsoring Syrian refugees for months. In the past three such meetings, only about 100 people attended. With the new developments and many more people coming forward, the Sept. 16 gathering could host well over 300 potential sponsors.

Alboim says individuals and groups who want to get involved should focus on raising funds — Citizenship and Immigration Canada requires that sponsors be able to provide \$26,000 for a family of four. More information on how to get involved can be found at www.lifelinesyria.ca.

If you can't sponsor, donate. There are many organizations working directly in and around Syrian borders to help care for people in need.

UNICEF Canada called Syria the most dangerous place to be a child, and launched an emergency appeal to save Syr-

ian children. You can donate through their website, www.unicef.ca.

Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, or MSF) Canada is another organization that sends medical and humanitarian staff to provide emergency health care to Syrian refugees inside Syria, and in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. You can donate through this page: www.msf.ca/en/donate-now.

More importantly, Canadians should pressure the government to simplify and speed up what has become a slow and complex sponsorship-application process. The Citizenship and Immigration website advises that applications typically take years to come to completion. And even the most urgent and luckiest applicants will wait more than six months.

Alboim, who once worked for the federal government, says she doesn't understand how the waiting times have

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil.

gotten so long. She remembers that it used to take just days to get an application through.

"Six days is too long for people in desperation," she says.

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions to geopolitical problems, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil, and find ways to chip in.

Let's not wait for the next tragedy to stir us to action.

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SUMMER OF 2015

Reports of cinema's death are greatly exaggerated

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



The summer movie season began amid doom and gloom. I don't mean George Miller's filling screens with his dystopian vision of the future in *Mad Max: Fury Road* or the career ending fallout from the Sony hack. No, I mean the sky-is-falling predictions that circulated about the movie business.

Box office is down! No one goes to the movies anymore! And best of all: Movies are dead!

To paraphrase Mark Twain, I'm happy to say the reports of the death of cinema have been greatly exaggerated. The summer box office of 2015 will go down in the record books as the second-biggest in history with almost seven billion dollars generated by *Minions*, *Ant-Man*, *Mad Max*, dinosaurs and a sad little girl named Riley.

Superheroes helped put bums in seats, but 2015 won't be remembered as the Year of *Ultron*. Now that the summer silly season is over, a definite trend toward female-driven movies like *Trainwreck*, *Pitch Perfect 2* and *Spy* showed that, as Amy Schumer told me,



From *Mad Max* to *Trainwreck*, people flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats not simply to sit in air conditioning or dine on popcorn, but to participate in a time-honoured tradition, writes Richard Crouse. HANDOUT

Hollywood has finally realized "our money works, too. Our banks also accept the female dollar."

But it wasn't just women going to the movies. With *Jurassic World* pulling in 1.6 billion samolians worldwide, it seems everyone put down the remote and went to the cinema.

We didn't rush out to everything — cash grabs like *Ted 2* and *Terminator: Genisys* flopped — but the naysayers, the folks who, in January, were

declaring movies to be a thing of the past, an old outmoded form of entertainment in the digital age, missed the point.

People flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats and studio bank accounts, not simply to sit in air conditioning for a few hours as relief from the summer heat or to dine out on popcorn and Twizzlers, but to engage in an age-old ritual.

Of course, you can watch movies at home or on your



sharing entertainment with a large group of strangers. It's a primal thing, hard-wired into our DNA, that dates back to when tribes of cave dwellers would sit around fires and tell stories through to the Globe Theatre, vaudeville, the talkies and right up to today's IMAX and AUX screenings.

People have gathered to be entertained since there were tales to be told because there is no better way to enjoy the storytelling experience than surrounded by strangers who are laughing, crying, gasping—whatever — in response to a shared event.

No matter how large your TV or comfortable your sofa, home viewing misses the magical element of community. In the theatre you're getting the sound and the picture the director intended, but more than that the experience brings people together, inspires conversation, respect and triggers actual physical interaction with others. Try that as you stream a movie on your iPhone.

Of course, as in any other community there are a few troublemakers — texters, seat kickers — but I spend more time in theatres than most and find the pros far outweigh any negatives.

In the era of home entertainment the idea of going to the movies may sound old fashioned or quaint but I like the way English novelist Angela Carter described watching a film in a theatre. She called it "dreaming the same dream in unison" and that, for me will never go out of style.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

A Walk in the Woods ★★★
The Transporter Refueled ★
Dragon Blade ★★★
Mountain Men ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

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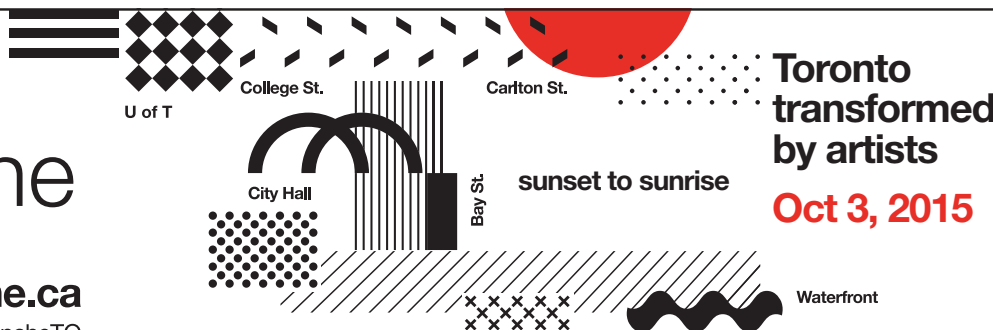
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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



After Will schools a Harvard 'Michael Bolton clone' in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?"

who'd just won Oscars for their story about an orphan-turned-janitor at MIT who could solve equations on napkins that only a handful of people in the world could also figure out.

Good Will Hunting stayed with me — maybe because it's the last film I remember seeing in a theatre with my mom and brother. I can recite nearly the entire thing, which makes me a very annoying viewing companion.

I could see regret in the eyes of my partner, Simon, when we watched it Saturday night. I announced at least five times that my favourite scene was coming up; I recited the jokes (in a Boston accent) before the characters did; and, like clockwork, I cried at the end when Will's therapist Sean, a role which earned Robin Williams an



THE MOVIE:
Good Will Hunting

THE MEAL:
Hand-picked apples

Academy Award, confronts him. "It's not your fault." Every year around Labour Day, I watch it. Maybe that's on account of the campus scenes — the hustle and bustle of students toting backpacks in lecture halls. Or maybe it's the apples.

You know the scene: After Will schools a Harvard "Michael Bolton clone" in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?" Coincidentally, my neighbour messaged me on Sun-

day to say that her apple tree was bearing more fruit than she knew what to do with and gave me enough for at least a couple of pies.

The only trouble was when I bit down into one, I knew I couldn't bear to bake them. They are small and tart, with a touch of sweet, and possess a crunch that caused me to have a Proustian moment: These are the apples of my childhood. The kind we'd pick every autumn and devour before my mom could use them up for something else. The kind that made me spit the mealy, imported sort.

I still occasionally daydream about Damon and Affleck. Does Matt now lecture Ben on how to make a marriage last? Do they get together every now and then, and watch J Lo's Jenny From the Block video?

Does something as simple as a perfectly tart apple remind them of bygone days, when they brought their moms to the Academy Awards on the cusp of finding fame and fortune?

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

MOVIE BRIEFS

Blanchett to play iconic star of I Love Lucy fame

Actress Cate Blanchett will take on the role of Lucille Ball in an upcoming biopic, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Aaron Sorkin will write the script for the film, which will focus on the iconic actress's life and long-spanning career. Ball won four Emmys during her career and was nominated 13 times.

She held the starring role in TV sitcoms I Love Lucy, The Lucy Show, Life with Lucy, The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour and Here's Lucy.

Lucie Arnaz and Desi Arnaz Jr., Ball's children with husband Desi Arnaz, will produce the film alongside Escape Artists.

Australian actress Blanchett has most recently been seen in films Cinderella and Carol. AFP



Cate Blanchett.
GETTY IMAGES

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

DreamWorks looking for new park to play in, sources say



Spielberg executive-produced Jurassic World, third-highest grossing film in history. CONTRIBUTED

Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks film studio plans to part ways with Disney when their distribution tie-up ends in a year's time, an industry source told AFP on Wednesday.

Trade reports suggest Spielberg is looking to negotiate a new partnership with more favourable terms, boosted by the runaway success of Jurassic World, on which he was executive producer.

Universal — the Hollywood studio behind the blockbuster

dinosaur series — is being tipped as Spielberg's likely new home by both the Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

According to an industry insider who did not wish to be named, it is too soon to say who will be distributing DreamWorks' production after the Disney deal ends on Aug. 16, 2016.

But the source told AFP that DreamWorks, which Spielberg helped found in 1994, feels out of step with the Disney model and its focus on

big, tentpole films such as new Star Wars instalments or Pixar's animated mega-hit Inside Out.

Disney's focus — exemplified by the acquisition in recent years of Marvel, Lucasfilm and Pixar — is firmly on movies that can be spun off into lucrative video games, amusement parks, branded toys and knick-knacks.

DreamWorks meanwhile has been focusing on smaller, adult-oriented movies such as The Help or, more recently,

The Hundred-Foot Journey with Helen Mirren.

DreamWorks signed a multiple-year distribution contract with Disney in 2009, after splitting from Paramount.

Spielberg's hand was strengthened in Hollywood by this year's Jurassic World \$1.6 billion box office takings. A sequel is already slated for release in 2018, also starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, and with Spielberg as executive producer. AFP

INTERVIEW

Jackie Chan still kicking it on screen

He may have karate-chopped his way to become one of the world's biggest actors, but even 40 years of action haven't slowed down Jackie Chan. Dragon Blade — the Hong Kong star's latest thriller — sees the much-loved martial artist leading a theorized war epic about lost Romans duelling Chinese guards along the Silk Road trade route. Metro caught up with Chan to find out why, at 61, he's happy to keep filming.

expensive Chinese film ever made. Why was it so important to you? The heart of this story is completely captivating. The idea that the world's two greatest civilizations had an encounter that was never recorded in history! How could I not want to make this film? It also allows me to touch on philosophical issues that are important to me and to director Daniel Lee — like peace.

is an action film, there are bits of comedy. Is comedy just natural for you as an actor? It's not necessarily deliberate but it just comes out. My next film is also an action-comedy so I guess I can never fully escape the genre. But I'm trying to vary my range and be seen as an actor who does comedy and action. I hope you'll recognize that in Dragon Blade.

You've said that when you were young, box-office suc-

cess was important. How has that changed? The box office result was very important when I was young. If my films had no box office, people wouldn't invite me to make another film. I had to feed my family, so making money came first...now I feel a responsibility towards society and the world. So my mind has changed and I don't care so much about the box office. I want to make the movies I want to make and spread my message. STEVE GOW/FOR METRO

Dragon Blade was the most

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Good bones for a bad guy

Ed Skrein believes his bone structure may be behind his getting chosen to play evil characters. HANDOUT

VILLAIN ROLES

Despite his casting, actor says he is a big teddy bear



Ned Ehrbar
For Metro

Ed Skrein swears he's a nice guy, despite appearances.

The British actor and rapper steps in for Jason Statham in *The Transporter: Refueled*, the fourth film in the fast-car franchise, and he'll soon be seen in the dark comedy *Kill Your Friends* and doing battle with Ryan Reynolds in *Deadpool* as the villain Ajax.

When you're stepping into a franchise role like this, what sort of hesitations or trepidations go along with that?

That doesn't play into it for me. It isn't really a factor, you know? And when taking on a role like this, I have the same preparation I would have normally (while) taking on a small European independent movie with a character that's never been played by anyone else. You find the character, you find the wiring and you work out how they make decisions.

Did you watch the previous

films to prepare?

I did. I'd never seen them before, and it was so important for me to watch them, to know what the fans expected and what had come previously. I think it would be ignorant of me to have not. And after that it was important for me to just move on and focus on my own approach.



You sort of find their shoes and get comfortable in them.

Ed Skrein,
on preparing for a role

These films are so technically specific.

It's fascinating, and it's why I love my job. I finished *The Transporter*, and a week later I went onto a Danish independent movie, which I think the budget was three million euros and we had a crew of 26 people. We shot it all Dogma-style, Danish style — very little makeup, very little lighting, one camera — and it was fascinating to see the difference in approach. For me, that's the blueprint going forward, and that's the joy of this craft, is to be able to have the yin and the yang and to balance between the two.

You're also in the darkly

comic *Kill Your Friends*, which debuts at TIFF.

It's an incredible book. Quintessentially dark, British humour. I would've cleaned the toilets on set, I was so excited to be a part of it. Also, it's a different role for me. A lot of the stuff that I've done has been pretty heavy, pretty dark. People tend to gravitate towards me when they want dark stuff. I can't think why. Even when I do comedy, I do it dark like *Deadpool* and *Kill Your Friends*.

If you were to speculate as to why people think of you for these darker things ...

I think my bone structure suggests that I am a violent person (laughs). But in real life, I'm a teddy bear. I'm a pacifist in every sense. I think even when I do a neutral face I look like I'm going to stab you in the eye. Darkness is something that I enjoy exploring in cinema because I don't have darkness in my life. My life is very light and just about my family, very calm and ordinary. Maybe the cinema and this craft is my therapy. I get to kill people and beat people up and be immensely horrible and evil on camera and live my days nine to five as a sociopath, and then I go home and I've got it out of my system.

That sounds very healthy, actually. You should try it.

TECHNOLOGY

Slave Trade game edited after outrage

An educational video game has been edited following a social media backlash over a scene depicting slaves being packed into a ship.

The creators of *Playing History: Slave Trade* removed a level Monday which featured black slave characters being dropped into a ship similar to the video game *Tetris*.

"Apologies to people who were offended by us using game mechanics to underline the point of how inhumane slavery was," read a statement posted on the game's page on Steam, an online store. "The goal was to enlighten and educate people — not to get sidetracked discussing a small 15-second part of the game."

The scene was also removed from the official trailer for the title, which was originally released by Copenhagen-based developer Serious Games Interactive in 2013.

The game captured attention last week when it went on sale on Steam and was promptly chastised on social media for

trivializing slavery with the stacking segment. Serious Games founder Simon Egenfeldt-Nielsen took to Twitter to defend *Slave Trade* against the controversy before deleting his account Tuesday. He could not be immediately reached for comment.

Slave Trade, which is intended to teach children ages 11 to 14 about slavery in the 18th century, casts players for most of the game as a young slave steward named Putij, who serves on a ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

While the *Tetris*-like slave-stacking level has been excised from the game, a talking mouse character who guides players still says at one point: "Slave traders didn't look upon slaves as people but as a product. They therefore stacked the slaves on top of each other to get as many as possible shipped."

Other titles in the Serious Games' *Playing History* series include *Playing History: Vikings* and *Playing History: The Plague*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A video game called *Slave Trade* has come under fire for a level where players stack slaves in a ship. YOUTUBE SCREENGRAB

AUSTRALIA

No charges for Gibson



Mel Gibson GETTY IMAGES

Police do not intend to charge Mel Gibson over an allegation that the Oscar-winning director shoved and abused a photographer who snapped pictures of him and his new girlfriend in Sydney last month.

The *Daily Telegraph* staff photographer Kristi Miller complained to police about the Aug. 23 altercation with Gibson, after he and Rosalind Ross were photographed leaving an Israeli Film Festival screening of *Matti Caspi: Confession*.

State police said in a statement "the matter was ... investigated thoroughly."

"At this stage, based on the evidence gathered, no formal action will be taken," New South Wales Police said.

Gibson's Sydney lawyer, Christopher Murphy, was informed on Thursday of the police decision not to press charges, his publicist Rogers and Cowan said.

"(Gibson) is now satisfied that the police, after speaking to witnesses and reviewing CCTV footage and other evidence, have found there is no substance to the claim," Rogers and Cowan said in a statement.

Miller told *The Daily Telegraph* that she had turned away from Gibson after taking his photo before he shoved her in the back.

"I thought he was going to punch me in the face," Miller said a day after the incident.

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WES CRAVEN

A look back at the work of the man who brought us Freddy Krueger

Chris
Alexander
Metro Life

The lights have dimmed on the world of horror as fans worldwide mourn the passing of one of their heroes: Wes Craven, an icon of contemporary genre filmmaking lost his battle with brain cancer this past Sunday, leaving behind a four-decade legacy of boundary-pushing cinema.

And yet despite his bloody, often perverse resumé (the director started making hardcore pornography before turning his talents to making such still-shocking, confrontation pictures as *The Last House on The Left* and *The Hills Have Eyes*), Craven was the gentleman of the genre; a kind and sophisticated human being whose work almost always was alive with lofty ideas, dark humour and slick style.

While some of Craven's films were more successful in defining the parameters of horror history than others, all of his work maintained some level of interest; all of his work mattered.

Metro takes a brief look at some of Craven's most memorable (and not so memorable) works.

Essential Wes

The Hills Have Eyes (1977): This brutal survivalist horror film took its cues from both *Deliverance* and *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, but emerged as something new: a violent, domestic tragedy by way of sun-baked Spaghetti Western. Craven's first true masterpiece.

A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984): What can be said about this landmark, off-sequelized slasher shocker that hasn't already been said? ANOES remains a jet black, hallucinatory landmark, ground zero for Craven's deranged, razor-gloved horror anti-hero Freddy Krueger...not to mention the movie that gave us Johnny Depp.

New Nightmare (1994): After having his "baby" turned into a beaten



In 1984 Wes Craven gave the world Freddy Krueger in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*.

ALL PHOTOS: HANDOUT

The cult of Craven



The Hills Have Eyes



Deadly Friend



The People Under The Stairs



Scream

down cartoon, Craven reclaimed Freddy for this mind-bending, self-referential satire that sent up the *Elm Street* series, while also serving as a genuinely affecting horror film in its own right, one whose tone laid the foundation for...

Scream (1996): Writer Kevin Williamson's snappy script became the salvation for '90s horror at the hands of Craven, whose vigorous directing zapped this "meta" slasher movie to gory, goofy and deliriously clever (almost too clever, according to some critics). After the success of *Scream*, the genre bolted back to life and never looked back.

Near-Classic Craven

The Serpent and the Rainbow (1988): Craven's stylish attempt to film Wade Davis' popular memoir of black magic and zombies in the fringes of Haiti should have been better than it was. Sophisticated and filled with terrifying imagery, the movie gets bogged down in trying to be a commercial '80s horror film and loses steam towards the finale.

The People Under the Stairs (1991): This maniacal socio-political horror comedy mind-bender is jam-packed with oddball action and palpable shocks. But its over-reliance on smartass humour works against its darker ideas and the movie falls apart at the climax.

Fascinating Failures

The Hills Have Eyes Part 2 (1985): Craven made this one on the cheap, quickly, following ANOES's success and it's a legendary misstep. In it, the survivor of the original shocker returns to the desert with his dog, only to find more cannibal mutants. Said dog famously has a ludicrous flashback, an excuse for Craven to pad the films' running time with footage from the first film.

Deadly Friend (1986): A deeply strange, hilariously '80s rethinking of the Frankenstein story by way of a sort of John Hughes-ish teen romance that sees the girl next door (Kristy Swanson) rebuilt as a vengeful zombie robot. Terminally goofy but so out there that it sort of stands alone.

Here's to Wes Craven. Gone...but never, ever forgotten.

TIFF LORDY, LORDY LOOK WHO'S

The Toronto International Film Festival turns 40 this year and with that milestone birthday comes 40-year-old angst.

The one-time upstart — originally snubbed by Hollywood bigwigs who deemed it a small-town affair — has become one of the industry's biggest players, and as such, an easy target for criticism from all corners.

Depending on who you talk to, it's either too big, too glitzy, or too exclusive.

Even those powerful Hollywood bigwigs were suddenly calling TIFF a bully last year, for demanding that films destined for coveted theatres and time

slots premiere in Toronto.

"Americans!" festival CEO Piers Handling huffs, while recalling the brouhaha that forced TIFF to tame its stance this year.

"Which I thought was a bit ironic that they were calling us 'imperialistic' and 'bullies.' The Americans? Some of whom, by the way, were my closest friends."

Forty years ago, festival founders could only dream of such attention.

Back in 1976, when TIFF launched with the name Festival of Festivals, Hollywood studios feigned interest in the new Canadian showcase only to pull their films at the last minute,

recalls co-founder Bill Marshall.

"The studios didn't believe in film festivals, particularly not in Canada," says Marshall, noting that changed when L.A. critics lauded the inaugural outing.

"So in '77 they all came back saying, 'Oh, we'd really like to help you.' They didn't mean it, but they tried.... They gave us things they thought were dogs."

That included Lawrence Kasdan's ensemble drama *The Big Chill* in 1983, a seemingly lightweight flick with a young cast including Glenn Close, Kevin Kline and William Hurt.

"They thought that was going to be a dog and it got huge ova-

40

tions here and went on to be the biggest movie of the year and win all the awards," says Marshall.

"So that was the turning point."

Co-founder Henk Van der Kolk never imagined TIFF itself would grow this large. "We weren't set-

ting out to make the world's biggest and most successful film festival," he says.

"We set out to make a festival so we could get some notice for the Canadian film industry.... And boy, did it ever happen."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ BEST AT FEST

TIFF has grown into a giant

It's synonymous with stars — A-listers George Clooney, Matt Damon, Sandra Bullock and Helen Mirren are among those who repeatedly venture north to promote their films — and a key launching pad for Academy Award campaigns.

It's also synonymous with fans and red carpet mania: It's not unusual for the biggest premieres to attract hundreds of onlookers clogging sidewalks and shattering eardrums with their screams.



Cape Breton's new headliner



Cabot Cliffs sweeps along oceanside bluffs just to the north of Inverness. PHOTOS COURTESY CABOT LINKS

NOVA SCOTIA

Cabot Cliffs adds to island's world-famous golf reputation

Brian Kendall
canadiangolftraveller.com



Cape Breton has always punched above its weight among Canadian golf destinations. But the early rave reviews for Cabot Cliffs, the island's wildly anticipated new course, seems almost an excess of good fortune.

Set on soaring oceanside bluffs just outside the town of Inverness, Cabot Cliffs is the

sister course of Cabot Links, a world-renowned seaside links that instantly became a flagship for the Canadian golf industry when it launched in 2011.

But Cabot Cliffs might be even more spectacular. No fewer than eight holes offer endless views of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Especially unforgettable is the 16th, a par three chiselled into a jagged cliff. The inland holes sweep through sculpted dunes and woodlands before returning to the sea.

Designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, golf's hottest design team, Cabot Cliffs is already being compared to Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and several more of the world's most dramatically beautiful courses.

Cape Breton, a Nova Sco-



Golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.

tia island of charming villages and panoramic vistas along the Cabot Trail, has long ranked among Canada's top golf destinations. Located in the quiet north shore community of Ingonish is Highlands Links, a Stanley Thompson-designed masterpiece that has anchored Maritimes golf since 1941. Rounding out a strong roster are Bell Bay Golf Club, The Lakes Golf Club and



Cliff-top drama: the signature par-three 16th at Cabot Cliffs.

Le Portage Golf Club.

Golf has become the lifeblood of local tourism. Before the opening of Cabot Links and the quietly elegant Cabot Links Lodge, Inverness was a hardscrabble former coal mining town where the big attractions were salmon fish-

ing on the Margaree River and the twice-weekly harness races at Inverness Raceway. Townspeople also boast that their beach offers the warmest ocean waters north of the Carolinas.

Today, stylish new houses are under construction, real-

estate prices are climbing, and the tired-looking main street is being given a facelift.

With tourists arriving from around the world, golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.

The original course, Cabot Links, is set just beyond the beach in the heart of town. Glimpses of the green and rumpled links are visible from almost everywhere in Inverness. A long public boardwalk extends between the beach and the fairways closest to the sea, enabling strollers to feel a part of the action.

And now, just to the north of town, Cabot Cliffs is welcoming golfers for preview rounds before its official launch next spring.

How lucky can Cape Breton get?

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Accommodations with a side of art

MORE THAN HOTELS

Where to find unique stays among murals, ice sculptures



ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie

If you are a culture vulture who prefers hotels that offer more than just bed and breakfast, consider staying at one of the following purveyors of the arts.

Cosy, with cocktails

With only 19 guest rooms, Toronto's Drake Hotel still manages to be the west end's epicentre of cool. From the hotel's inception, the promotion and sharing of art was always part of the guest experience.

There are site-specific installations throughout the hotel from conceptual installations to murals to kinetic sculptures. The collection is grounded in contemporary Canadian art with works by notable artists such as Ken Lum, Isabelle Hayeur and Evan Penny. The cocktail list is pretty memorable, too!

Aboriginal art

Opened in the fall of 2014, the 18-room boutique Skwachàys Lodge in Vancouver is perfect for people interested in British Columbia's aboriginal art



The Skwachàys Lodge in Vancouver. COURTESY TOURISM VANCOUVER

scene. Six of the city's top hotel designers worked with six First Nations artists to create 18 unique art installations, one for each guest room. The hotel also features an artists' workshop, traditional smudge room and sweat lodge and is crowned by a rooftop totem pole that reaches high above the city skyline.

Owned by the Vancouver Native Housing Society, 100 per cent of the hotel's profits go toward providing safe and affordable housing for Vancouver's urban aboriginal population.

Keeping cool

The Hôtel de Glace outside of Quebec City is the only ice hotel in North America and, despite lacking some creature comforts (only a pillow and medium-sized mattress in the rooms), is a breathtaking work of art. Built over a six-week period and open only during the winter months, the hotel is redesigned every year by a combination of tradesmen and skilled artisans.

This past year's theme of

space and time was represented in frozen sculptures of everything from a Japanese tea ceremony to the lunar landing, carved into the walls of the hotel. This year's theme will be announced in December.

Contemporary in N.Z.

If you are travelling internationally, a personal favourite of mine is the Museum Art Hotel in Wellington, New Zealand.

This 165-room European-inspired boutique hotel is perfectly situated in the city centre, opposite the city's stunning harbour and Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.

Although one could endlessly people-watch the city's hipsters and trendsetters who frequent the hotel's Hippopotamus restaurant and bar, I could not take my eyes off the art.

Owner Chris Parkin showcases more than 100 ceramics, paintings and other contemporary pieces, like a limited-edition MV Agusta motorcycle, throughout the hotel.

NOT A TOURIST | A letter from Mark Stachiew in Germany

Hockey night in Frankfurt

Do you want to meet local people when you travel? Here's a tip: Attend a sporting event. You'll sit with thousands of them and the ones seated next to you are happy to talk, especially if you're rooting for the home team.

I've seen NHL games in several North American cities and met plenty of local fans, but few of them could top the enthusiasm I saw at a hockey game in Frankfurt. Yes, that Frankfurt, the one in Germany.

While soccer is king in Germany, the country has a professional hockey league known as the Deutsche Eishockey Liga. While the calibre of play in the DEL may not be up to NHL lev-

els, it is plenty competitive and highly entertaining.

In Frankfurt, the fans cheer for the Löwen, or Lions, a team that plays at the EisSPorthalle Frankfurt in the second tier of the DEL. There wasn't a moment during the game when fans weren't waving flags, clapping, banging drums and chanting songs. They only paused between periods in order to soothe their hoarse throats with generous portions of German beer while eating fistfuls of sausages and pretzels.

In many ways, it seemed that a horde of rabid soccer fans had been trans-

ported to a hockey rink, superimposing their rituals on a hockey game. Most wore the black, white and orange colours of the home team, but many sport-

ed NHL sweaters of various vintages or those of other European teams.

The opposition that night was the Dresdner EisLöwen. It was a back-and-forth affair that the visitors won 6-4, but even if the hometown fans didn't go home happy, I did because I knew that the sport Canadians love is in good hands in Germany.



Fans in Frankfurt wave flags, bang drums and hold sparklers aloft during a pre-game ceremony that is as epic as a Wagnerian opera. MARK STACHIEW/FOR METRO

TRAVEL NOTES

Sunspot expansion

Antigua and Barbuda recently doubled the capacity of its V.C. Bird International Airport with a new terminal, one of the most modern in the Caribbean. The \$130-million-plus green-energy building will offer more of everything, including expedited access to the twin-island nation's 365 beaches, three VIP lounges and a pet restroom. Go to VisitAntiguaBarbuda.com.



Jabberwock Beach, Antigua and Barbuda. CONTRIBUTED

Travel trend

Frequent flyers beware: A recent study says business travel may be harder on you than you think. Your glam job jetting around is costing you physically (jet lag and fatigue, airplane food, radiation), emotionally (missing your family/spouse), psychologically (you may be addicted to "hyper-mobility") and socially (friends never know when you're around, so they don't call).



Is your jet-setting job making you miserable? PEXELS.COM

North Korea marathon

Intrepid Travel added North Korea to its roster last week, launching a Pyongyang Marathon Expedition set for next April. Travellers participate in the city's full- or half-marathon, or 10-km run, followed by a week of guided tours of landmarks such as the demilitarized zone, Mount Myohyang and the city of Pyongyang. From \$3,130. Visit IntrepidTravel.com. DOUG WALLACE



More than 650 internationals ran in the Pyongyang Marathon last year. CONTRIBUTED

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MVP chants grow louder

MLB

Donaldson leads AL in RBIs, runs, slugging pct.

When Josh Donaldson steps to the plate at Rogers Centre and the strains of Phil Collins' 'In the Air Tonight' fade out, the crowd noise fills in with chants of "M-V-P! M-V-P!"

Sometimes it's just a few hundred fans, until the star Blue Jays slugger hits a home run and some 40,000 more join the call.

"I try not to listen to it too much, but it's nice," Donaldson said. "Obviously all year the fans have really supported me. So far this year it's kind of worked out, and we'll see how it goes."

To say it has "worked out" is the understatement of the year from the third baseman, a front-runner to be the American League's Most Valuable Player. Donaldson leads the league with a .589 slugging percentage, 111 runs batted in,

Fans have firmly gotten behind the first-year Blue Jay.

TONY GUTIERREZ/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



.385

In 149 plate appearances with runners in scoring position, Donaldson is hitting .385 to Trout's .347.

304 total bases and 104 runs scored.

He has passed and even lapped defending champion Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels by being at the forefront of the Blue Jays' surge into first place.

"I don't think we're anywhere close to where we're at without him," starting pitcher Mark Buehrle said. "If he doesn't win, I'd be disappointed."

Donaldson would be the first player in 31 years to win AL MVP honours after being traded prior to Opening Day. Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos pulled off the steal of the off-season by acquiring Donaldson from the Oakland Athletics for oft-injured third baseman Brett Lawrie.

The 29-year-old hit 29 home runs last season and 24 in 2013. Coming off an all-star appearance, expectations were that Donaldson



Josh Donaldson is batting a career-best .304 with 36 home runs with 29 games left.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

would be an upgrade, but few could have predicted this.

"Two years in Oakland he had good years, but not this good," Buehrle said. "If somebody says they thought he was going to have this good of a year, I think they're crazy."

Donaldson, who hits second ahead of power righties Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion

in baseball's most feared and productive lineup, is batting a career-best .304 and already has 36 home runs with 29 games left.

Using the wins above replacement stat, which calculates value to a team if replaced by a bench player or minor-leaguer, Donaldson's 7.64 trails only Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack

Greinke and Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper.

"He's having a career year," Toronto starter Marco Estrada said. "What he brings on the field is everything. He's been our best hitter, his defence is incredible and he brings a lot of energy to the clubhouse. I'm glad he's on our side."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Judge nixes ban on Brady

Tom Brady learned Thursday he will start the season on the field after a judge lifted the league's four-game suspension of the star quarterback for a scandal over deflated footballs, saying he was treated unfairly by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. The league quickly appealed.

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman criticized Goodell

for dispensing "his own brand of industrial justice" as he found multiple reasons to reject the suspension one week before New England's Sept. 10 opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Super Bowl MVP has insisted he played no role in a conspiracy to deflate footballs below the allowable limit at last season's AFC championship game, a 45-7 rout of the Indianapolis Colts.

The judge cited "several significant legal deficiencies" in the league's handling of the controversy, including no advanced notice of potential penalties, a refusal to produce a key witness and the apparent first-ever discipline of a player based on a finding of "general awareness" of someone else's wrongdoing.

"Because there was no notice of a four-game suspension in the circumstances presented here, Commissioner Goodell may be said to have 'dispensed his own brand of industrial justice,'" Berman wrote, partially citing wording from a previous case.

Goodell said it was necessary to appeal "to uphold the collectively bargained responsibility to protect the integrity of the game."

He called the need to secure the game's competitive fairness "a paramount principle."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tom Brady
GETTY IMAGES



Roger Goodell
GETTY IMAGES

U.S. OPEN

Murray stretched to fifth set in second-round scare

Before they stepped on court, there was nothing to suggest Andy Murray would have any trouble against Adrian Panarino in the U.S. Open's second round.

Murray, after all, is seeded No. 3, owns two major championships including one at Flushing Meadows in 2012, and had reached at least the quarterfinals at the last 18 Grand Slam tournaments he'd entered. Panarino, meanwhile, is ranked 35th, has never won a tour-level title, and only three times in his career has even managed

14

Murray committed just 14 unforced errors in the final three sets — he made 21 in the first two.

to win more than one match at a major.

So it certainly came as a surprise when, in Thursday's very first game in Arthur Ashe Stadium, Panarino broke Murray. About an hour later, Panarino

slammed an overhead winner to grab the first set. And 45 minutes after that, a serve-and-volley winner gave the Frenchman the second set, too.

Murray is nothing if not resilient, though. Despite looking as if he might be ready to wilt on another steamy day at Flushing Meadows, Murray put together his eighth career comeback from a two-set deficit and beat Panarino 5-7, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

It gave Murray his 35th consecutive victory in a second-round Grand Slam match.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Andy Murray lunges to return a shot to Adrian Panarino on Thursday in New York. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Family man Stout says it's time to bow out

UFC

Lightweight slugger veteran admits his best days are gone

Fighting was very good to Sam (Hands of Stone) Stout.

The 31-year-old lightweight from London, Ont., recalls asking his bank for \$20,000 in cash when he wanted to buy a Dodge Avenger after one of his better UFC paydays. The bank demurred and Stout had to write a cheque.

For someone who used to drive a 1995 Chrysler Cirrus, a hand-me-down from his grandmother, it was a good day. As good as when he used another bonus cheque to pay for a new concrete driveway for his parents, among other home improvements.

But more recently, those paydays have come at a cost.

Once known for having an iron chin, Stout (20-12-1) was knocked out in his last three fights. While fine in the gym, Stout realized he was suddenly vulnerable in the cage.

"It's kind of a tough thing to wrap your brain around," Stout said Thursday, one day after announcing his retirement. "Physically you feel like you can still do it but that punch lands and it's night, night."

"I used to walk through those punches and not even flinch," he added. "All of a sudden I couldn't do that any more."

Stout's nine previous losses



Sam Stout, seen here at right fighting Caros Fodor in February 2013 in Anaheim, is putting his health first and retiring from the UFC octagon. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

"I used to walk through those punches and not even flinch. All of a sudden I couldn't do that any more."

UFC fighter Sam Stout

came via decision (six) or submission (three). He went almost 11 years as a pro before he was stopped by a punch.

Then — bang, bang, bang — it happened at the hands of K.J. Noons (in 30 seconds), Ross (The Real Deal) Pearson (six minutes 33 seconds) and, most recently,

Frankie Perez (54 seconds).

Stout, who has not had any concussion issues, says he was healthy and motivated for those last three fights.

"All the training in the world's not going to make your chin better," he said. "Really what it comes down to is I just don't want to risk my health," he added. "I have a daughter (Logan) to think about now and I want to have a good quality of life in the future and I'm not going to risk my health for a paycheck."

Stout fought 20 times in the UFC, second only to former welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre (21) among Canadians. Stout collected seven fight bonuses from the organization, six for fight of the night and one

for knockout of the night.

He debuted in the UFC in March 2006 when he won a split decision over Spencer (The King) Fisher. The two went on to fight two more times, each garnering a win. Their trilogy helped Stout earn a reputation as a busy, hard-nosed fighter who usually put on a show. "We love fighters like Sam Stout," UFC president Dana White said in 2008. "Sam comes out and lets them go."

Stout, whose overall UFC record was 9-11, leaves ranked third in the modern UFC in significant strikes landed with 995, according to FightMetric, behind Frankie Edgar and Michael Bisping. He ranks 10th in total fight time with three hours 58 minutes 22 seconds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EURO 2016 QUALIFYING

Iceland upset Dutch again to stay top

Iceland beat the 10-man Netherlands 1-0 on Thursday to take a big step toward qualifying for next year's European Championship. Arjen Robben's first match as Netherlands captain lasted less than a half hour before he left the pitch injured and was replaced by Luciano Narsingh.

And Danny Blind's debut as national coach went from bad to worse in the 33rd minute when referee Milorad Mazic showed defender Bruno Martins Indi a straight red card for making a striking movement with his arm as he tumbled to the ground in a tackle with Kolbeinn Sigthorsson. Blind, a former fan favourite at Amsterdam Arena in his playing days with Ajax, was loudly booed when he pulled off striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and replaced him with Jeffrey Bruma in an attempt to shore up the Dutch defence.

Gylfi Sigurdsson converted a 51st-minute penalty for Iceland after Gregory van der Wiel brought down Birkir Bjarnason.

In other Group A qualifiers, substitute Valerij Sabala scored an injury-time equalizer as Latvia drew 1-1 with Turkey, and



Iceland players embrace after silencing Amsterdam's Arena Stadium. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan Skoda scored both of his team's goals as the Czech Republic came from behind to beat Kazakhstan 2-1.

The top two in each group qualify automatically for France. The best third-placed team also qualifies automatically, and the other eight teams can qualify through a playoff. The results left Iceland top of the group ahead of the Czechs, with the Netherlands third, a point ahead of Turkey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

Canada face lowly Belize in World Cup qualifier

Canadian coach Benito Floro will be looking to avoid blundering against Belize as his team opens a home-and-away World Cup qualifying series Friday at Toronto's BMO Field.

On the surface, it should be smooth sailing. British

bookmaker William Hill has Belize as a 12-1 underdog.

Canada is ranked 102nd in the world while Belize — whose population is around 350,000 — is No. 128. The Canadian men dispatched the Jaguars 8-0 on aggregate when they met in a similar qualifying tie in 2004. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Mediterranean Burger with Tzatziki and Arugula



EAT LIGHT AT HOME

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Tzatziki is a Greek sauce made from strained yogurt and mixed with cucumbers, garlic, salt, olive oil and lemon juice.

Serves 4

Ready in

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- Burger
- 1 lb ground lean beef
- 3 Tbsp diced onions
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 3 Tbsp barbecue sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp dried basil
- Garnish
- 1/4 cup tzatziki (store-bought)

- 1 oz crumbled feta
- Tomato slices
- Cucumber slices
- Arugula

Directions

1. In a bowl, combine burger ingredients, mix well. Form into four burgers.
2. Grill or bake burgers at 400 F for approximately 10 to 12 minutes, or until temperature reaches 160 F.
3. Garnish with tzatziki, feta, tomato, cucumber and arugula.

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 230
- Protein 26 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Total fat 8 g
- Saturated fat 3 g
- Cholesterol 110 mg
- Sodium 380 mg

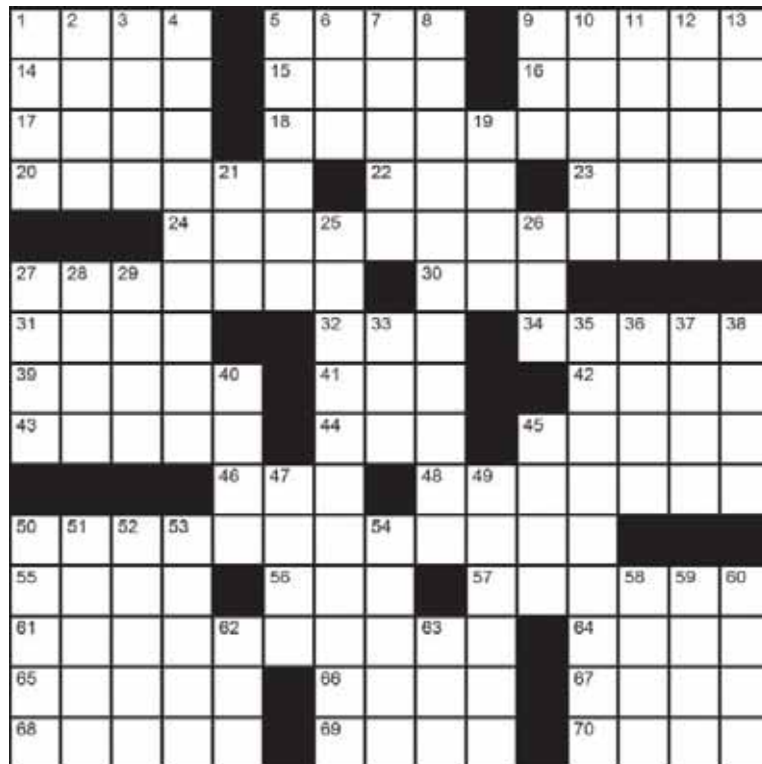
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Mr. Cumming
5. Embassy worker, e.g.
9. Lathers
14. Shark type
15. "...__ tete, Alouette..."
16. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
17. Send forth
18. Beheld: 3 wds.
20. "Citizen Kane" (1941) estate
22. Big Apple newspaper, briefly
23. Sparkling wine city of Italy
24. Lotto Max's jackpot cap introduced this summer: 2 wds.
27. Environs
30. Do movies
31. Tennis great Mr. Nastase
32. US television station
34. Couches
39. Van __ & Arpels (Jewellery house)
41. Do movie soundtrack work
42. Farewell, to Catullus
43. Neutral tone
44. Seedy sandwich selection
45. Curt
46. 1977 Steely Dan album
48. Victoria, The __ Capital of British Columbia
50. Song from Hair co-written by Canada's very own Galt MacDermot: 4 wds.
55. "Away!"
56. L'Isle __-Coud-



- res, Quebec
57. Apply hairspray
61. Tweety's co-star Sylvester, for one: 2 wds.
64. "Right back __!" (Likewise)
65. Matthew McConaughey's wife Camila

66. Montreal-born singer Mr. Vannelli
67. "Jenny __": Paul McCartney ballad
68. 'Gang' suffixes (Criminals)
69. Canadian writer Mr. Martel
70. NASDAQ rival

DOWN

1. Charge card, e.g.
2. Priest of Tibet
3. Alike
4. Awake, basically: 2 wds.
5. Sumptuous
6. "Give __ rest already!"
7. "the" Elder (Roman

- author of the encyclopedia Naturalis Historia)
8. Shakespeare... She who exclaimed "Out, damn'd spot! out, I say!": 2 wds.
9. Farm enclosure
10. L'__ (Cosmetics brand)
11. Also, in Abitibi
12. Prefix to 'type' (Mock-up)
13. __-__-law (Family member)
19. 'Synth' suffix
21. Nero's 502
25. Mode of transport in Churchill, Manitoba for tourists viewing polar bears: 2 wds.
26. Fire dept. ranks
27. Ancient Scot
28. "The Producers" (2005) role
29. Andre __ (Dutch violinist/conductor)
33. Purchase
35. Like a bank account without sufficient funds
36. 'Yukon's Best Kept Secret' town
37. To boot
38. Feel
40. Achievement
45. Baseball field covering
47. Comic actress Ms. Cusack
49. Songstress Sheena
50. "Como __?" = "How are you?" in Spanish
51. Grind to __
52. Figure out
53. Oxen harness maker, say
54. __-__ agent (Former employee of The Company)
58. Macy Gray hit: 2 wds.
59. Nautical ropes
60. "Titanic" (1997) star Billy
62. Mag. edition
63. Ms. Jillian

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20

Someone will turn up the pressure on you today but you refuse to be beaten. There is a determination about Aries that makes you a formidable enemy. The more others attack the more you will dig in your heels.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21

Every suggestion you make lately seems to be met with disapproval. You won't change their attitude, so you might as well go off by yourself and do your own thing.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21

Something dramatic is likely to happen either to you directly or to others in such a way that it affects you as well. Keep your wits about you and no harm will come.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23

Your beliefs and opinions will come under fire today and there may be a very good reason for it. Could it be that some of your ideas went out of fashion years ago? Maybe it's time to bring yourself more up to date.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

You have huge responsibilities and you may be tempted to run away from them. But the only way to lessen the burden of your responsibilities is to fulfill them to the letter.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you like a challenge then you will enjoy what happens today. No matter how tough the task you face, or how strong the opposition, you must not back down.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You must trust your instincts even if everyone else seems to be moving in a different direction. Sometimes logic is not the best guide and sometimes it pays not to follow the herd.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Be friendly with everyone you meet today. Some people will be less than friendly in return but it's about how you choose to behave, not how a minority of idiots choose to react.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

There can be no more playing around — you must make a decision and you must make it now. It won't be easy and not everyone will approve, but if you don't act now you may never get the chance.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It might be unwise to speak your mind today, even if you are in the right and someone else is in the wrong. You are going to have to work closely with this person in the future, so think before you speak.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Cosmic activity in the wealth area of your chart means you need to tighten your belt now so you can enjoy the benefits later on. The less you spend today the more cash will be available to spend tomorrow.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

Confrontation is likely today. Resist the urge to pull rank on people you work with, because they will get back at you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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